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Tyrone Wheatley was a guest coach at women's football camp
See Page 1-C



BEER ME!
Thousands attended the summer beer fest
See Page 1-B



The Ypsilanti Courier .com

VOL. 15, No. 39

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2009

YPSILANTI

'Wireless Ypsi' wins statewide innovation award

By Jeremy Allen
Heritage Newspapers

When Steve Pierce and Brian Robb decided to launch Wireless Ypsi in January 2008, they didn't know how many people they would help connect to the World Wide Web.

They knew that they had a very feasible goal in mind, and they knew that they could accomplish their goals at a very affordable rate.

Now, just 18 months later, the duo's pioneering vision has facilitated free wireless Internet services for nearly 28,000 unique users and, in the process, garnered recognition from the Michigan Business Review.

Robb and Pierce were rewarded for their efforts earlier this month when they won one of eight statewide Innovation Michigan business awards at Innovation Michigan on July 16.

The event selected 38 Michigan businesses as finalists for consideration for the eight awards.

"We were surprised that we were nominated, but we were also surprised that we won, as well," said Robb. "This was the first year that awards were extended to state-wide business—it had been limited to Western Michigan businesses."

The idea behind Wireless Ypsi is to provide free Internet access to dense populations by

setting up Meraki mesh radios at existing Internet access points from service providers that allow sharing. Robb said they also monitor network quality and generate profit from installing and monitoring the network.

In addition to having infrastructures in downtown Ypsilanti, Depot Town, downtown Ann Arbor, and River's Edge Apartments (among other places), Wireless Ypsi most recently installed a network at Saline High School.

"The superintendent of Saline Schools, Scot Graden, called us up and said he liked our idea and thought it would be great to implement the network system in Saline High

School," Robb said. "That's generally how we've been operating."

Robb said the idea for something like Wireless Ypsi was conceived back in 2003 when Gov. Jennifer Granholm's "Cool Cities" initiative was passed and Ypsilanti was granted \$100,000 to make the city "cooler."

"I was trying to get just \$10,000 of that so I could bring wireless to Ypsi back then, but obviously it didn't work out that way."

Fortunately for local residents, Robb's efforts didn't stop there. He paired up with Pierce and established the first wireless network that was free to

PLEASE SEE WIRELESS/14-A



Brian Robb accepts the Innovation Michigan Business Award on behalf of his company, Wireless Ypsi. Photo courtesy of Katherine de Fuccio.

YPSILANTI TWP.

Summer Science



Annually the University of Michigan hosts a Summer Science Institute for Ypsilanti Public Schools' middle school students. The two-week camp began July 20 and takes place in the Life Sciences Institute on U-M's Central Campus. Some 40 students are learning about the many facets of energy.

ABOVE: Austen Simpson, an East Middle School seventh-grader, completes a worksheet before doing an energy exercise.

LEFT: Kara Bussinger, a West Middle school graduate entering Ypsilanti High School in the fall, completes her worksheet before moving on to the hands-on energy experiment.

Photos courtesy of Ypsilanti Schools

Township eyeing millage hike for police services

By Tom Perkins
Special Writer

As Ypsilanti Township grapples with significant revenue loss from the closing of the General Motors Plant and dropping property values, its Board is considering proposing a new millage to subsidize their contracted police services through the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office.

The board received a presentation from David Williamson, an accountant who advises the township, that showed

that while Ypsilanti Township is currently solvent, its law enforcement fund balance will be at zero sometime in mid-2010 if changes are not made.

Supervisor Brenda Stumbo said while she campaigned on a platform of no tax increases, there was no way to foresee the economic storm, and increase is needed for the township to weather it.

"It's very clear from the presentation that our police resources are in jeopardy and

PLEASE SEE MILLAGE/14-A

YPSILANTI

EMU hires new VP for communications

By Jeremy Allen
Heritage Newspapers

Eastern Michigan University has had its share of media woes in the past.

Last week, the university took a step toward putting an end to that cycle when it named Walter Kraft as its vice president for communications.

Pending approval by the Board of Regents, the appointment will become effective Aug. 10.

"Eastern Michigan University plays a vital role among Michigan's universities," Kraft said. "Given the economic and education environment we are in, it is more important today than ever before to provide thoughtful and intelligent information about the University and its programs."

Kraft's background in public relations, media relations and

PLEASE SEE EMU/14-A

WHAT'S INSIDE

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BRIEFLY...

■ **Schools to host BBQ and poker:** The Ypsilanti Public Schools Foundation hosts the First Annual BBQ and Casino event is set for 3 p.m. Saturday at Celebrations (formerly Cady's), located at 36 E. Cross St. in Ypsilanti's Depot Town.

Grill masters will want to be part of the BBQ competition from 3 to 7 p.m. and then put on the poker face for some Texas Hold 'Em from 7 to 11

p.m.

The night will also include prizes and entertainment.

Admission is \$20 for Adults which includes food and casino chips; \$10 for children; \$15 for food only (carry-out); and \$15 for casino only plus chips.

Proceeds from the event will support student scholarship funds and classroom mini-grants. To purchase tickets call the foundation at 1-734-714-1080.

■ **Annual Garden Walk set:** The Ypsilanti Garden Club will be hosting the annual Garden Walk from noon to 5 p.m. Aug. 22 during the Heritage Festival.

Six unique Ypsilanti gardens are on the tour plus the bonus garden at Growing Hope. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance at Mantis Pet Supply and Bombadills or on the day of the tour at the Townner House and at the gardens. For further information visit ypsilantigardenclub.org or call 487-8931.

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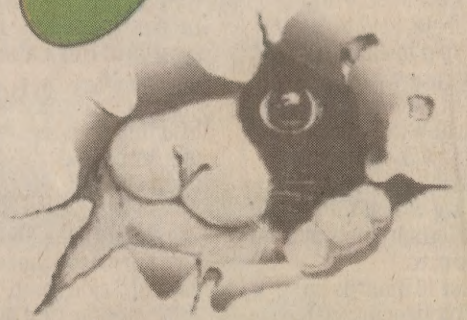
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FBI Assistance Dogs Demo

1:00 pm

Equestrian Vaulting
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Farm Equestrian Center

2:15 pm

The Creature Conservancy
Wildlife Presentation

3:00 pm

"Junk Yard Dogs"
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YPSILANTI

State's first clean energy store launched

By Jeremy Allen
Heritage Newspapers

The Clean Energy Coalition, an Ypsilanti-based nonprofit organization promoting clean energy technologies, has launched the Energy Outlet, an innovative new retail and educational space aimed at meeting the demands of the growing "green" and energy efficiency movements.

At the Energy Outlet, consumers, contractors, and business owners can now access both information and products in order to decrease their energy use, improve their efficiency, and increase their use of clean energy.

In addition, a non-profit organization operating in a normally for-profit arena adds a new element to the Clean

Energy Coalition's business model.

Any profits gained from the sale of products and class registrations will be used to support the work of the Clean Energy Coalition and its work around the state of Michigan.

CEC is involved in the management of such clean energy projects as: Ann Arbor Solar America Cities, ReBuild Ypsilanti, Michigan Energy Sense, Ann Arbor Clean Cities, CleanDIRT, Biofuel Infrastructure Grants, and the management of annual events that bring in over 6,000 attendees.

Sean Reed, Executive Director of CEC, envisioned the store as he looked at potential new office space for the growing nonprofit agency.

"I knew this was our chance to meet with people more one-on-one, to let them know how they could navigate this changing time for energy use," Reed said of the Depot Town storefront.

"Being able to provide products, classes, and have new energy conversations, with new people, right in our own office, moves our mission forward in a substantially positive direction."

Customers will have access to CEC's own managers, including on-staff building, transportation, and technology experts. The result is a one-on-one conversation with each customer who walks in the door, helping each of them meet their own unique needs. From quick payback prod-

ucts like low-flow shower-heads and renewable energy products, the Energy Outlet invites each community member to step up their own energy efficiency.

Another part of CEC's mission in opening the Energy Outlet is to increase public awareness of locally owned "green" businesses and their products. Public workshops will be taught both by CEC staff and local "green" business partners in the Energy Outlet's Green Classroom.

Locally owned and operated business, Arbor Spray Foam Insulation, will offer a class on insulation options and benefits. Local landscaping planning and maintenance company, Two Chicks and the Elements, will offer a "build

your own rain barrel" class.

Additional topics will include building weatherization, solar power options, utility bill reduction, and more. The Energy Outlet also provides information on local contractors, companies, and manufacturers who can help consumers increase their own energy efficiency.

Located at 44 East Cross St. in Ypsilanti, the Energy Outlet is open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

To learn more about the Energy Outlet, contact Deb Heed at deb@cec-mi.org or call 483-9000. To learn more about the Clean Energy Coalition, visit www.cec-mi.org.

Jeremy Allen is a staff writer for Heritage Newspapers. He can be reached at jallen@heritage.com.

FYI

What: Energy Outlet, a retail store and educational space aimed at helping consumers meet the demands of the energy efficiency movement.

Where: 44 E. Cross Street, Ypsilanti

Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Contact: Deb Heed at deb@cec-mi.org or 483-9000.

Online: www.cec-mi.org

Upcoming workshops: Local businesses will offer classes on insulation, rain barrels, weatherization, solar power options, utility bill reduction and more.

Here, catch!



Photo courtesy Ypsilanti Public Schools

Emmett Mallach, grandson of Andrew Fanta, Ypsilanti Public Schools Board of Education trustee, was visiting from Boston for the holiday and got into the spirit of the 4th of July celebration, helping his grandfather pass out YPS frisbees to spectators along the parade route.

YPSILANTI

Habitat makes garden

Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley has partnered with the well-known Ypsilanti community gardening organization, Growing Hope along with Cultivating Community, a community gardening project from the University of Michigan School of Natural Resources, to establish a community gardening project on Firwood Street in Ypsilanti.

The community garden is an endeavor of the Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Homeowner's Association and the Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Food Buyers Club that will provide fresh produce to Habitat families, reducing their overall food expenses and supporting healthy eating habits.

The Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley Food Buyers Club is a coordinated effort between the Habitat Homeowners Association, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, and Food Gatherers of Washtenaw County that assists Habitat families in lowering their food expenses. Each month, each Habitat household that wishes to participate contributes \$25, and the contributions are pooled together so that food items can be purchased in bulk quantities at local food stores.

In addition, donations made by members of the community are used to purchase additional food from Food Gatherers of Washtenaw County. The food is then brought to the Habitat office on one Saturday of each month where it is divided into boxes for each Habitat family who contributed funds for that month. With a \$25 contribution, a Habitat family can receive a box that contains more than \$60 in food.

Members of the Habitat Homeowners Association coordinate all of the activities: purchasing the food, sorting it each month, and arranging for the boxes to be dropped off to the homeowners participating in the program.

For more information, visit www.h4h.org.

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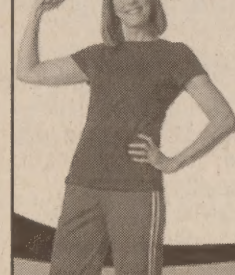
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MEDIUM

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SECOND FRONT

www.heritage.com

July 30, 2009

Annual 4-H Youth Show opens

Ag-themed event showcases animals and their handlers

By Lisa Allmendinger
Heritage Newspapers

Ben Helber brought his horse, Bob, to the Farm Council Grounds in Lodi Township Sunday and was among quite a few equestrian exhibitors at the annual Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show, which continues through Friday.

The 14-year-old Ann Arbor resident leases Bob, a Thoroughbred Quarter Horse cross, and says he likes riding Western better than English, but planned to show in both styles during the week.

Ciara Lesko, 11, of Chelsea, also shows her horse, Creek, in both English and Western.

Both are members of the Silver Spurs 4-H Club of Chelsea.

Amy Creleau, the club's 4-H leader, said there are about 18 members of Silver Spurs, some of whom even go camping with their horses.

Maddi Heath, 11, of Milan shows Ace, a black Quarter Horse, only in Western.

Also there this week is Cecilia Lundberg of Ann Arbor, who is showing her Shetland pony, Cheyenne, in carting classes.

Mackenzie O'Connor, 12, of Lodi Township was seen warming up her horse, Trigger, a palomino Quarter Horse after winning her showmanship class earlier in the day Monday.

This year's show was a little bittersweet for Christina Olton of Dexter since it will be her last. The recent Dexter High School graduate is headed to Michigan State University at the end of August and her mother said her appaloosa, D.J., is for sale to help pay for Olton's college tuition.

"I've been riding since I was 9 years old," said Olton, who planned to show English and Western, as well as compete in

showmanship at the 4-H event.

The show takes place through Friday and more than 700 kids have entered, said Elaine Feldkamp, program assistant.

More than 5,000 still project exhibits and about 800 animal exhibits are on hand, said Cindy Fischer, program coordinator.

One new 4-H club, Backwoods Farmers of Dexter, has about 14 members, ages 3 through 15, said Stephanie Fischer, the club's leader.

"They show a little of everything," she said, from still projects to cattle, goats and swine.

Ashley Holman, 9, entered several sewing projects — a pillowcase and an apron among them — while her brother, Nick Holman, 8, made a farm scene on a board using coffee grounds as dirt and a Coast Guard Emergency helicopter out of Legos.

The 4-H Small Animal Silent Auction starts 6 p.m. Thursday and the 4-H Youth Livestock Auction begins at 6:30 p.m.

A new feeder calf auction will be held 9:30 a.m. Friday in Building D.

Also Friday is the 4-H Youth Council barbecue, which is open to everyone.

At 5 p.m., the horse Grand Entry Pageant will take place, followed by the Sweepstakes Showmanship, which has participants of one breed of animal showing all the species that were exhibited at the fair.

The show is held at the Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, between Ann Arbor and Saline.

Times are 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Admission and parking for the event is free.

For more information, call 997-1678.

Lisa Allmendinger can be reached at 877-995-NEWS (6397) or at lallmendinger@heritage.com.



Photos by Lisa Allmendinger

Cecilia Lundberg, 12, of Ann Arbor and Cheyenne, a Shetland pony that she shows in the open cart class, are at this week's Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Fair.



Hayden Pitts, 11, of Lodi Township shows off his woodworking project at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.



Ciara Lesko, 11, of Chelsea stands with her horse, Creek, which she shows in both English and Western classes at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds near Saline.



"I've been riding since I was 9 years old."

CHRISTINA OLTON

Dexter grad participating in her last 4-H show with her horse, D.J.



ABOVE: Nick Holman, 8, of Dexter displays his farm board that he made for this year's Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.

AT LEFT: Christina Olton of Dexter, a graduate of Dexter High School, stands with her horse, D.J., at the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Fair.

Ashley Holman, 9, of Dexter, a member of the new Backwoods Farmer 4-H Club of Dexter, shows off a flowered pillowcase that she sewed for the Washtenaw County 4-H Youth Show.



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Walberg to challenge Schauer

Former Congressman seeks Republican bid for 7th District seat

Republican Tim Walberg announced earlier this month that he will run to reclaim his former seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Walberg, a Tipton resident, was Michigan's 7th District House representative for one term before losing last November to Democrat Mark Schauer.

"The last election was about change," Walberg said. "And I think the American public and the 7th District voted for change, but the changes they're seeing right now are not the changes they voted for."

Walberg recently answered questions from Heritage Newspapers Deputy Managing Editor Terry Jacoby about his decision to run, his opponent and how he plans on returning to Washington, D.C.

Why did you decide to run again?

South central Michigan families and small businesses are struggling, but the big government politicians in Washington, D.C., are pushing for more federal spending, higher taxes and an escalation of the national debt. I cannot sit idly by as Congressman Mark Schauer votes to spend trillions of dollars we do not have and votes for a massive national

energy tax that even President Obama said would cause "electric rates" to "skyrocket."

I believe working to balance the budget and providing across-the-board tax relief is a better approach to help our economy, encourage investment and foster job creation.



Walberg

What kind of job is Schauer doing and what would you do differently?

The voters will have a clear choice here as Mark Schauer and I think very differently about big issues — taxes, the role of government and regulation. He is an old-fashioned liberal. I respect that he doesn't try to mask it in any way and I respect his point of view. I just believe he is completely wrong.

He was wrong when he voted in Lansing for Governor Granholm's massive tax increase that dramatically raised our cost of living and chased jobs out of the state. And he was wrong when he voted in Washington for trillions in new spending and higher taxes. These are big differences and voters will have a clear choice.

What did you learn your first time around in D.C.?

The importance of listening to and learning from the constituents I had the privilege to serve. By consistently staying in contact with the people of south-central Michigan, I was able to carry their ideas for fiscal responsibility, energy independence and healthcare reform to Washington.

What will you do differently during this campaign?

Our message of economic freedom and opportunity, energy independence, and health care affordability resonated

Meet the candidate

Name: Tim Walberg
Age: 58
Residence: Tipton (Lenawee County)
Education: He attended Western Illinois University, Moody Bible Institute, Taylor University and Wheaton College Graduate School, earning bachelor's and master's degrees.

Work history: He served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2007-2009. Walberg's previous work includes service as a pastor for nearly 10 years. He was elected to the Michigan House of Representatives in 1983 and served until 1999.

Family: Tim and his wife, Sue, have been married for 35 years. They live in Tipton, where they raised their three now-adult children Matthew, Heidi and Caleb. Matthew and his wife, Erin, have two children, Micah and Claire.

Republican primary for District 7: Aug. 3, 2010

with voters; though President Obama's margin of victory in the 7th District made pulling out a victory too difficult. I will run a strong grassroots campaign focused on the necessity of stopping the excessive spending and debt in Washington, D.C., returning more freedom and opportunity to individuals, and improving the business climate to encourage job creation.

Getting back to Washington won't be easy, what do you see as your biggest obstacles?

Left-wing groups such as Moveon.org, the National Council of La Raza and Speaker Nancy Pelosi's DCCC spent millions in the last campaign. These far-left attack groups are willing to say anything to defend their big government allies like Mark Schauer, so these politicians can continue spending trillions we don't have, have the federal government takeover health care, and enact energy taxes that would

further damage our economy and raise utility rates.

I will take my campaign to the people, letting citizens know that I trust them to spend, save, and invest their own money and build a better future for their family.

The Democrats say you and other Republicans are why we are in this economic mess. What do you say to that?

First, big-spending politicians from either party are harmful to our economy and the next generation. Second, during my term, I stood with Michigan families by fighting for fiscal responsibility and firmly opposed tax increases, Speaker Pelosi's wasteful budgets, and Wall Street bailouts. With Michigan in a deep recession, Congressman Schauer's destructive policies of higher government spending, higher taxes and higher debt are destroying job opportunities here in Michigan.

How would you fix this economy?

One, stop our national debt from climbing by trillions annually by making the federal government live within its means. Two, enact across-the-board tax relief to encourage investment, hard work and job creation. Three, implement patient-centered health care reform such as cutting down on frivolous lawsuits that are driving up costs for hospitals and physicians, allowing small businesses to join together to purchase quality health insurance for their employees, and providing low and middle-income families with healthcare tax credits so they can purchase patient-centered health insurance for their children. Four, reduce energy costs and move America toward energy independence through conservation, development of alternative energy such as wind and solar power, environmentally sound energy exploration, allowing for the construction of advance carbon free nuclear energy, and building more refineries.

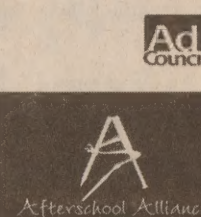
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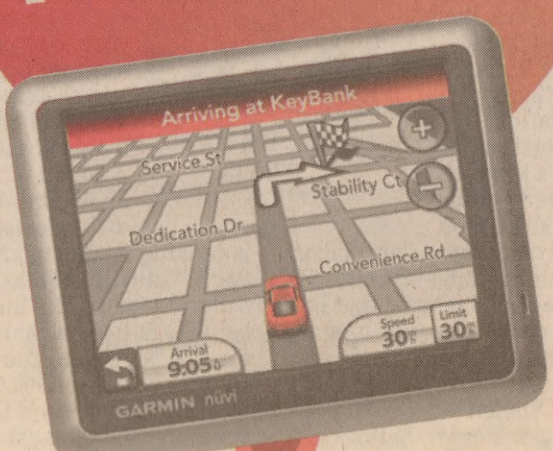
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Contact Us

Publisher:
James K. Williams
jwilliams@heritage.com

Online:
Annette Cortiana Clark
aclark@heritage.com

Managing Editor:
Michelle Rogers
mrogers@heritage.com

Deputy Managing Editor:
Terry Jacoby
tjacoby@heritage.com

Sports Editor:
Don Richter
drichter@heritage.com

Sales & Marketing:
Carol Sauve
csauve@heritage.com

Production:
Jerry Leasure
jleasure@heritage.com

Circulation:
Greg Bondy
gbondy@heritage.com

To Subscribe

Newsstand:
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Home Delivery:
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The Ypsilanti Courier:
\$18.00 / 6 mo. • \$29.00 / year

Mail Delivery:
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Sports:
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HERITAGE

PAGE 6-A

EDITORIAL

Our policy

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July 30, 2009

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Online poll question

This week's question

WEB VIEWS

Which is your favorite park?

A. Gallup Park in Ann Arbor

C. Ford Heritage Park in Ypsilanti

B. Mill Pond Park in Saline

D. Metroparks

House at war over proposal

As confidential memos go, this one is — well, this one is unprecedented in its candor, rancor and anger. In other words, it's a classic. In fact, union leader Lu Battaglieri says: "It is not hyperbole to say we are at war on this issue."

And that "issue" is the stunning proposal released recently by state Speaker of the House Rep. Andy Dillon to create a state government-operated insurance fund for the state's 400,000 public employees, including teachers.

The Battaglieri-led Michigan Education Association, the state's largest teachers' union, attacked Dillon for promoting an "anti-labor, anti-union and anti-collective bargaining" scheme that is even worse than anything the union battled during 12 years of conservative former Gov. John Engler.

In quick order, Battaglieri lays out these charges against the Democratic speaker:

- He allegedly reneged on a promise to let the union review the plan before it was released.

- The plan will cost Democrats control of the governor's office, the state House and Senate next year.

- Dillon is splitting the Democratic Party.

- Dillon is a Republican, a different union official argues.

"(Dillon is) a nice house-nobody home" said Battaglieri as he ranted on.

"This is not meant to be pejorative. I believe it is true."

He says Dillon is a "nice man," but that's about the only nice thing he has to say.

The MEA "is not going to be sacrificed on the altar of the budget yet again," Battaglieri warned after his union's insurance company, MESSA, took a hit during the last budget meltdown two years ago.

All this is really a "war"

on two fronts. The MEA is loathed to risk its worker's benefits by letting the remote state government dictate what those benefits will be. It is much easier to bargain across the table from school board members you play golf with and have a closer relationship with.

Secondly, there is the political war this could foster.

Dillon told the union that he was offering this plan to prevent Democrats from losing the House, Senate and governor's office next year. Battaglieri lectured Dillon "that's exactly what will happen" if this is adopted.

Dillon is "seemingly clueless as to the damage he

is causing the Democratic Party," said the union official.

Furthermore, Big Lu believes Dillon has handed the GOP an issue. The speaker points to \$900 million in healthcare savings that the Republicans will twist around to say, "There is \$900 million in waste in the system and Democrats don't want to do anything about it."

All this just serves to increase the flow of bad blood between the Democratic speaker and the Democratic-leaning MEA and does nothing to solidify Dillon's support in the labor movement, even though several unions will back Dillon.

To underscore his lack of standing with labor, the ink was not even dry on his proposal when he picked up the endorsement of two Republicans running for governor.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm was lukewarm, claiming she had a "million questions" she wanted answered before she signed off, if at all, on the Dillon proposal.

Dillon has placed his caucus in a tough position. The MEA will warn House Democrats who are running for re-election that they are free to back the speaker, but the MEA is free to ignore

New study underscores need to reform plan

In light of a new study exposing the huge gap between the cost of health care for employees in Michigan's private and public sectors, House Speaker Andy Dillon, D-Redford Township, called on Gov. Jennifer Granholm and fellow legislators to review his proposal to save an estimated \$900 million a year by overhauling the state's public employee healthcare system and work together to advance it.

A new study by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a division of the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, reveals that the average cost of healthcare premiums for private companies in Michigan that employ more than 1,000 workers is \$11,926 a year per employee for family coverage.

Dillon used a more conservative estimate of \$13,000 to \$14,000 a year from AHRQ's 2006 survey to calculate the \$900 million in savings. In contrast, the average cost of healthcare premiums for Michigan's public employees generally ranges from \$16,000 to \$17,000 for family coverage, according to public information.

Dillon's healthcare reform plan will consolidate the hundreds of different healthcare plans offered by the state, as well as counties, cities, townships, school districts and other local units of government. Michigan's more than 400,000 active employees, plus hundreds of thousands of retirees and part-time

employees, participate in different plans that vary in cost and quality and assess their own administrative fees.

The savings will come in three areas, according to Dillon:

- Consolidating the planning, delivery and administration of health care in the Office of the State Employer will cut administrative costs by almost \$100 million.

- Representing such a large pool of customers will allow the state to negotiate the most cost-effective healthcare plans and purchase prescription drugs at lower cost, saving nearly \$200 million a year.

- Standardizing the healthcare plans available to public sector employees and aligning them more closely with those in the private sector will save up to \$600 million a year.

In addition, the plan will ensure all healthcare plans serving public sector employees and retirees follow best medical practices, which will increase patient safety and prevent unnecessary treatment, generating additional savings.

Residents and businesses will have the option of participating in the state healthcare plans, driving down the costs of health care in the private sector and making it more affordable and accessible for all.

Details and data on Dillon's proposal can be found at NewIdeasForMichigan.org. The new AHRQ study is available at <http://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb>.

lines? It's the Republicans who love watching a family feud in the other party — for a change.

Tim Skubick hosts "Off The Record" and blogs regularly at www.thenewsherald.com.

them when they ask for money.

Self-preservation being what it is, Dillon will lose votes.

And all that cheering you hear over there on the side-

OUR TAKE: Editorial

Texting while driving should be banned

Text messaging and driving is a deadly mix, according to the Michigan State Medical Society. Statistics show that drivers are six times more likely to become distracted and cause an accident if they are text messaging.

Distracted drivers account for almost 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of near-crashes in the United States, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Top distractions among drivers are cell phone use, including texting, reaching for a moving object inside the vehicle, looking at an object or event outside of the vehicle, talking with other passengers, eating, reading, applying makeup, driving angry, fidgeting with controls and loss of direction.

Text messaging while driving leads the list as the biggest distraction while driving, according to Students Against Destructive Decisions and Liberty Mutual Insurance Group. Their recent study revealed that text-messaging while driving is "becoming as dangerous as drinking and driving in terms of inhibiting one's driving abilities."

"Driving while changing the radio is distracting enough, let alone taking your eyes off the road to type even a short sentence or two," said MSMS President Dr. Richard Smith, a Detroit obstetrician/gynecologist. "It's very dangerous."

One of the most widely known accidents caused by text messaging while driving was in June 2008 when five teen girls from Rochester, N.Y., were killed in a collision with a tractor. Police reports indicated that the driver of the vehicle was texting just seconds before the accident.

A Harris Interactive Poll from August 2008 shows nine out of 10 American adults believe that sending text messages or e-mail while driving is "distracting, dangerous and should be outlawed."

No state has yet adopted a universal law banning text messaging and cell phone use while driving, however, 13 states already prohibit texting while driving with many states conforming to this idea quickly. Currently, six states prohibit the use of hand-held phones while driving. Michigan is not one of them.

Michigan Sen. Samuel Thomas of Detroit introduced a bill in the Michigan Senate in March that would ban the use of cell phones for "engaging in nonverbal communication with another person, playing a game or entering data." Violators would be charged with a civil infraction and would be fined \$100.

"The major problem is that too many people believe they can multitask and do everything at one time," Smith said. "In the end, it's not going to make much of a difference whether someone answers a text right away or within the next 20 minutes. Stay safe and stay text-free while driving. Lives depend on it."

The Michigan State Medical Society is the professional association of more than 15,000 physicians in Michigan. The mission of MSMS is to promote a health care environment that supports physician in caring for and enhancing the health of Michigan citizens through science, quality and ethics in the practice of medicine.

Visit the MSMS Web site at www.msms.org for other health-related information.

OTHER VOICES: By Debbie Stabenow

We will provide for our veterans

This Independence Day, we were thankful that the brave men and women who secure our freedom were finally able to take advantage of the benefits that they deserve.

When our servicemen and women join the military, they make a lasting sacrifice. Our long engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan are producing a new generation of veterans. They have earned the right to an affordable education once they return home.

That's why I am pleased to announce that veterans and active duty personnel who have served at least 90 days after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to receive education benefits beginning in August as part of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

The new G.I. Bill offers a wide range of benefits to veterans pursuing higher education. It fully covers four academic years of tuition — equivalent to the cost of tuition at the school of their choice — or the cost of the highest tuition at one of our state public universities, whichever is less.

These benefits can be transferred to an immediate family member, spouse or child. It also provides a monthly living allowance, as well as a stipend for books and other necessary supplies.

With the school year fast approaching, I encourage veterans to begin applying online at www.gibill.va.gov.

In these tough economic times, a good education is the best way to open doors to the future. With the G.I. Bill, our servicemen and women can equip themselves with additional skills to help them successfully re-enter the civilian work force.

It is also important that we protect the health of our veterans long after they have returned from the battlefield. That is why the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act set aside more than \$24 million to modernize and upgrade VA facilities throughout Michigan.

Then, in the budget just passed by Congress, we laid the groundwork to expand access to the VA system for lower-income veterans, a measure the VA estimates will eventually help an additional 500,000 get the health care they need.

As one of Michigan's voices in Washington, I will continue to take the necessary steps to ensure the men and women who have dedicated their lives to our country will receive the support that they deserve, and that we honor our promise to all of our veterans.

Debbie Stabenow is a U.S. senator from Michigan.

DANIEL FENECH
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Strength in action

Army recruiters at Air Show

By Austen Smith
Heritage Newspapers

Recruiters for the United States Army took advantage of crowds drawn by the July 17 and 18 Thunder Over Michigan Air Show with their nationally traveling Strength in Action display which featured an Apache helicopter flight simulator, a video-game like simulated rocket launcher and even Guitar Hero.

Sgt. Benjamin Bemus said he was able to talk to a great number of young men and women interested in Army careers over the two-day event held at Willow Run Airport. He said there are more than 150 career fields available in the Army and, most importantly, they provide training that assists enlisted personnel for life after the Army.

"That's actually a big misconception people have about military that you can only go into the infantry, as a recruiter we hear that stuff a lot," Bemus said. "There are medical fields available, a lot of different career opportunities and that's what we have been trying to show people here today."

As far as recruiting, which has seen a dip over the last few years, Bemus said holding events like Strength in Action really helps get young men and women interested and helps



Sgt. Benjamin Bemus stands next to the A-64 Apache Helicopter Flight Simulator on Saturday of the Thunder over Michigan Air Show.

spread education about the Army and other military fields.

"That's all people get to see is the negative stories. A lot of people don't know soldiers and have only what they get to see on TV. Soldiers are just real people just like you and me, we just chose this career path," Bemus said.

And with the post 9/11 GI

Bill going into effect Saturday, military veterans will have more opportunities for educational support and housing. The Post 9/11 Bill is an expansion on the Montgomery GI Bill, which was passed shortly after the end of WWII, and is open to military service men and women who were in active duty on or after

Sept. 11. In addition, the Army also is offering the Army College Fund which provides financial support for education on top of the GI Bill program.

For more information about the Post 9/11 GI Bill, visit the Web site, www.gibill.va.gov. For more information about the Army, visit www.goarmy.com.

LIBRARY EVENTS

The following are upcoming events for the Ypsilanti District Library. All Library events are held throughout the district's three locations: the Whittaker Road Branch, 5577 Whittaker Road; the Michigan Ave. branch, 229 W. Michigan Ave; and its newest Superior Township branch, located at

8975 MacArthur Boulevard. For more information, contact Donna DeButts, YDL Community Relations Coordinator, at 1-734-879-1303 or visit the Web site at www.ypsilanti.org.

TODAY
Microsoft Access: 6:30-8:30

pm Thursday at the Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd. Free. Register: 482-4110 ext. 1377

An introduction to database creation and management.

Teen Flicks: 6:30 pm
Thursday at the Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker

Rd. Free. Drop in. Details: 482-4110 ext. 1340.

Transport yourself to other places and times with some classic teen movies—old and new.

Today's film is Bend It Like Beckham (rated PG-13). Popcorn provided.

YPSILANTI TWP.

Board OKs pay and benefit cuts

Move aims to save township about \$135K

By Tom Perkins
Special Writer

Faced with a dwindling tax base due to foreclosures and the closing of the General Motors plant, the Ypsilanti Township Board voted to give a 3-percent pay cut to the township supervisor, clerk, treasurer and 14 other non-union employees in 2010.

The reductions come as the township faces a loss of \$187,000 in state shared revenue this year and an additional \$268,000 loss in general fund revenue

due to a drop in property values.

The move will save the township roughly \$35,000 this year and nearly \$100,000 next year, and the board also voted at a special meeting last Tuesday to make an additional \$80,000 in cuts.

Among those cuts are changes in medical and dental plans, reduction in mileage reimbursements, cuts in contributions to trustees' retirement plan, reductions in elected officials' pension plans and elimination of five paid days for non-union employees.

Tom Perkins is a freelance writer for the View/Courier. He can be reached at tperkins@gmail.com.

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YPSILANTI SCHOOLS

Longtime Clemente educator celebrated

By Charnika Jett
Special Writer

Officials and community residents filled the gymnasium at Roberto Clemente School last Saturday afternoon to celebrate Joseph Dulin's retirement as principal after more than 35 years.

The celebration, which was held at Roberto Clemente in Ypsilanti, was a community appreciation potluck.

Dulin, 73, was the first African American to become principal of a Catholic school in the nation. His educational career has spanned more than 52 years, and he is widely known as the founder of the National African American Parent Involvement Day in 1995, which encouraged black parents to be involved in their children's education.

More than 15 speakers stood on the stage to share their personal stories of their encounters with Dulin.

John Hieftje, mayor of Ann Arbor, whose son graduated from Roberto Clemente, told guests he was never offered the same attention that his son received during his high school years.

"When I went to high school, I don't think the principal ever really knew who I was and I certainly never knew him," Hieftje said. "But I can guarantee there's not a student who went out of this school that didn't know who Joe Dulin was and didn't know that he cared a great deal about them. That's

"When I went to high school, I don't think the principal ever really knew who I was and I certainly never knew him. But I can guarantee there's not a student who went out of this school that didn't know who Joe Dulin was..."

JOHN HIEFTJE
Ann Arbor Mayor

saying something."

U.S. District Judge Victoria Robert also was at the celebration to talk about when she first met Dulin in Detroit when she was a high school student.

"In the fall of 1967, shortly after the riots in Detroit, in the schools that literally stood in the shadows and the smoke, Joe Dulin was there for us every step of the way," Robert said.

"He was the missing father figure for many who were a part of degenerated families and he was a role model for all of us. He was a living, breathing formula for success. He was already our hero."

Roberto Clemente junior Yazmin Warren shared Dulin's encouraging words he gave her over the years.

"Joe Dulin helped me with my everyday life and taught me the importance of education," she said. "(He) is without a doubt the best principal I've ever had."

"He let each and every one of his students know, including

myself, that they must handle their business to be successful. I've also learned to do me in (sic) whatever I do to get where I want to be and not to let anyone get in the way of that," Warren said.

After the speakers poured out their thoughts and stories involving Dulin, and after all the tributes, proclamations and plaques recognizing his legacy were handed out, Dulin came to the podium and addressed the crowd.

"I want to take this opportunity to thank God to serve your kids, and I really want to thank you for allowing me to serve your kids. It's my pleasure," Dulin said.

"This is a great community. We just have to take advantage of the opportunities. There are many opportunities here, but you must push your kids to be the best that they can be. You must do that. You must be jammed into your kids. Let nothing stand in your way because every parent wants

their child, regardless of their condition, to have a better quality of life than they themselves had."

Dulin will travel to Florida to celebrate his retirement, but plans to return soon to continue to volunteer in the community. Although Dulin wanted to come back in October, he said has been offered jobs before his return date.

"The pressure is on," Dulin said. "I've already got an office offered to me. What I would really like to do is become an advocate for parents and the students to make sure they get a fair shot in the system."

As the founder of NAAPID, Dulin has done his part in trying to incorporate parents in their children's education, but some people look at the organization as a racist, he said. Dulin said those individuals are "ill informed."

"They are the ones who have held people back. There has been a string of absence of African-American parents in school and we have to get them in school because education is the key," Dulin said. "Those who say that don't even know what they're talking about."

When asked what advice he would give to the new principal set to fill his shoes, Dulin said: "Be strong and be committed to the kids and their families. Make it a positive experience because almost 100 percent of our youngsters coming here have not had positive school experiences."



Well-wishers filled the gymnasium at Roberto Clemente School last Saturday afternoon to celebrate Joseph Dulin's retirement as principal after more than 35 years.

Change of venue for Ypsilanti Rotary

The Ypsilanti Rotary Club is now hosting their weekly Monday luncheons on the third floor of the Eastern Michigan University Student Center, located at Oakwood Street. The move is expected to provide a location that promotes ties to the university as well as attendance convenience for the greater Ypsilanti area.

Rick Easterbrook, current president of the 92-year old club, said club members are excited about the change.

"We are very fortunate to have secured a meeting location at Eastern," Easterbrook said. "Our club's emphasis on literacy and service to the local community, and beyond, is a good fit with a world class university."

The Ypsilanti Rotary Club has been a champion of a number of local literacy initiatives, including the annual distribution of dictionaries to elementary students and college scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

The service club also is

engaged in the international efforts to eradicate polio and to establish pure drinking water to third-world countries. Locally the club is involved in maintaining the park at the Riverside Arts Center, participating in the annual Ypsilanti Pride Day, Warm the Children program and partnering with nonprofits to purchase supplies to enable these agencies to provide valuable service to others.

Membership in the Rotary Club is open to volunteer-con-

scious individuals who have a desire to better their local community as well as extend support to international causes.

For more details contact club President Rick Easterbrook at 1-734-320-5121 or e-mail rbrook@provide.net.

YPSILANTI

HONORS

William Eaddy of Ypsilanti has been named to the Dean's List at Drake University.

Eaddy achieved this academic honor by earning a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher during the Spring 2009 semester at Drake.

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3 point Kubota backhoe attachment; Case Model 850-D - Dozer w/ 6 way blade - serial No. 7403683 - Tack shows 2855 hours - nice; Case Model 580-E Super E Backhoe 4x4 - wheel drive extend a hoe - shows 3260 hours; 2001 Volvo- 12 yard dump truck, Detroit Diesel, recent engine work, live tandem, 5 speed transmission. This truck is sharp! Case Model 1840 Uni Loader skid steer - tack shows 1225 hours. Trail King 20 ton flat bed trailer, tandem, dual wheel, air brakes, good heavy duty trailer - looks like new; Bob Cat No 15 quick tatch post hole digger w/2 augers 24 and 16 in.; Pallet forks for skid steer; tire bucket; yoke rack; Bri-Mar 16 foot trailer w/electric brakes; beaver tail and ramps like new; 3 point sod buster; 3 point 60 gallon sprayer; 3 point back blade; 3 point bush hog rotary shopper.

PLASMA CUTTER - WIRE WELDER - COMPACTOR - DRUM SANDERS - SHAPER GENERATORS - SCAFFLING - LATHE - JOINTER - EXPANDABLE ALUMINUM PICKS - BRAKES - AIR COMPRESSOR - ELECTRICAL HAND TOOLS - SEVERAL TRAILER LOADS of MISC.

Thermal Dynomies Plasma Cutter; Century 160 Amp wire welder; Lincoln AC-AC Welder; Welding Helmets; Drill presses; Jack Hammer; Grizzly 16 in. bar saw; Performax Shop Pro 25 drum sander - nice; Performax Shop Max 37x2 drum sander - nice; Delta Wood Shaper; Several air nailers; Power house 8000 watt generator; Troy Bilt 5550 watt portable generator - like new; portable air compressor w/Honda motor; Miter box; shop lights; approx. 28 pieces of BillJax Scaffling - nice! Aluminum ext. ladder; 12 foot Aluminum brake; Expendable Aluminum Pick; Pipe vise; 8 speed wood lathes - nice! CI - 6 in. jointer; Wacker Dirt Compactor; Dewitt small port air compressor; Air bumper jack; Large Campbell Hausfield Twin upright Air Compressor; QEP Model 60010 Ceramic saw; Radial Arm Saw; Portable Gas Sludge Transfer Pump; Roof Jacks; Floor Jacks; Large Heat Buster Fan; Cherry Picker; Several Pickup tool boxes; Lot of good power tools; Large vice; several aluminum bull floats and cement tools; Gas cement trowler; Quality PVC drain fittings; Dust Vac Collectable 16 ft. tandem trailer - low sets; building supplies & electrical wire; Some 2x6 lumber, several large hand hewed barn beams; large 24 ft. 8 in. I beams; Several hit chairs. THIS is a partial listing - LOTS OF GOOD MISC.; several trailers full. Something for everyone!!

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Businessman to run for governor

Former Gateway Computers exec seeks GOP nod

By Terry Jacoby
Heritage Newspapers

Rick Snyder is asking for your support to be Michigan's next governor. But before he could ask for your vote, he needed a unanimous vote of support from those closest to him.

"This was certainly a family decision to run for governor," Snyder said last Thursday in the middle of a whirlwind bus tour of the state promoting his candidacy, his ideas and his vision. "I needed to know that they wanted me to do this first," he said.

Snyder, who lives in Ann Arbor with his wife, Sue, and three kids, got all the votes he needed for a run to Lansing earlier this year. It will be his first campaign for any political office.

"I had been considering running for governor for awhile because I've always been interested in public service," he said. "But the moment it became really clear was last January when I went out to dinner with Sue. She could tell that what was going on in this state was really getting to me and she said, 'You need to run for governor.' She said that this state needs to change and that I was the person to make it happen."

"We had talked about waiting until our kids were older before I got involved in public service because there is a great deal of sacrifice that goes with it. And I am a strong family person. So we spent about a month talking this over with the family before deciding to do this and everyone was behind it."

Snyder, a Republican,

Meet the candidate

Name: Rick Snyder
Age: 50
Native of: Battle Creek
College: University of Michigan
Current hometown: Ann Arbor
Family: In 1987, Snyder married Sue Kerr of Dearborn. Kids: Jeff, 20; Melissa, 17; and Kelsey, 12.
For more information: www.rickformichigan.com.

announced his candidacy for governor at a news conference at Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory at Greenfield Village in Dearborn. He began his announcement with some disturbing numbers.

"One million, that's the number of projected jobs expected to be lost in Michigan this decade," he began, with his family standing behind him. "Twelve minutes, that's the rate at which a family is packing up and moving out of our state. Fifteen percent, that's our unemployment rate and still climbing. Thirty-fourth vs. 17th, that's the drop in per capita income since 2001 compared to the other 50 states. Michigan is an economic disaster."

And his last number was one, as in the No. 1 reason for these "staggering" numbers is because of the lack of leadership in Lansing. He believes there are big challenges to be met in Michigan and that he is the right person to take on these challenges.

Following his announcement in Dearborn, Snyder hit the road in an effort to deal with one of his biggest challenges — name recognition. He said he realizes not everyone knows his name or what he stands for, but promises that is going to change over the next year and certainly before the August 2010 Republican primary.



Rick Snyder of Ann Arbor, a Republican, recently announced his candidacy for governor at a news conference at Thomas Edison's Menlo Park Laboratory at Greenfield Village in Dearborn.

His Republican opposition already includes candidates such as U.S. Rep. Pete Hoekstra, Attorney General Mike Cox, Oakland County Sheriff Mike Bouchard and Sen. Tom George.

"In my opinion, voters have two choices," Snyder told Heritage Newspapers Thursday. "You can continue to support career politicians that do the same old stuff and support what's been going on here in Michigan or you can help reinvent this state. If voters believe we are a disaster and we lack leadership, I am the clear choice."

Snyder believes his business background helps prepare him for the task ahead. He is the former president of Gateway Computers, a longtime Ann Arbor busi-

ness leader and the former chairman of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. and Ann Arbor SPARK, an economic development organization for the Ann Arbor region.

During his tenure at Gateway, the company grew from a privately-held \$600 million company with less than 1,000 employees, to a publicly-traded Fortune 500 company with revenues in excess of \$6 billion and more than 10,000 employees in the United States.

Snyder's five-day tour around the state included a stop in Ann Arbor, where he has set up his campaign headquarters. Other stops included Grand Rapids, Lansing, Jackson, Frankenmuth, Saginaw, Midland, Marquette

and Flint.

"The unemployment rate in Flint is 27 percent," he said. "It was 6.7 percent in the state when Governor Granholm took office and it's at 15 percent right now. The people in Lansing have done nothing the past few years to fix the problems. And this is not about spending money; it's about building programs and a strategy for the long-term."

Snyder points to the current budget problems in Lansing as an example of poor leadership and direction.

"The House and Senate have two competing bills," he said. "They can't agree and, while they are trying to figure it out, a family leaves Michigan every 12 minutes."

So what do they do? They go on recess, or what I call vacation. Shouldn't they be up there trying to work on a budget? It doesn't make sense to me. The customers, who are the residents of this state, should be outraged."

Snyder is calling for a major transformation in Michigan and calling on the people to help him reinvent the state and begin an era of innovation.

"The campaign is a step to get where I want to go," he says. "But the work really begins when we get to Lansing."

That work will include the creation of more and better jobs in Michigan. He believes in driving the state into a

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Words offer inspiration

Merriam-Webster, of dictionary publishing fame, adds 100 definitions to its latest edition every year. Of the new words, 25 have been released to the general public, while a new dictionary or subscription to Merriam-Webster.com must be purchased to learn about the rest.

Since my budget can barely afford a staycation (a vacation spent at home or nearby), this column will only offer words. You won't need to shell out any dough to add to your Scrabble arsenal.

If, unlike me, you get to spend the summer months in exotic destinations, maybe you'll get to feast on an *acai* (a small dark purple fleshy berrylike fruit native to Central and South America) or a *goji* (a dark red mildly tart berry of a thorny Asian shrub.)

Flying to such locales may hurt your carbon footprint (the negative impact that something has on the environment), which would surely upset green-collar (of relating to or involving actions for protecting the natural environment) workers.

Of course they're just taking out their frustrations on you. Their gripe is more with the fact that global warming programs aren't getting the earmarks (provisions in Congressional legislation that allocate a specified amount of money for a specific project) that they used to when Vice President Al Gore was making headlines.

Speaking of Capitol Hill, the U.S. government may

have to recognize *waterboarding* (an interrogation technique in which water is forced into a detainee's mouth and nose to induce the sensation of drowning) as torture now that Webster's recognizes it as an actual word. If they don't, it's almost a guarantee that flash mobs (groups of people summoned to designated locations at specified times to perform an indicated action before dispersing) will protest all over the world, just like they did when U.S. soldiers made Muslim detainees perform *haram* (forbidden by Islamic law) actions.

Webster's definitely had Muhammad worshippers in mind by adding *shawarma* (a sandwich especially of sliced lamb or chicken, vegetables, and often tahini wrapped in pita bread) to the new word

ders and injuries by physical means).

Processing all of these new words could give you a headache, and to be *neuroprotective* (serving to protect neurons from injury or degeneration), I'd recommend taking a *naproxen* (an analgesic and antipyretic often used in the form of its sodium salt) such as Aleve. Of course if your *pharmacogenetics* (the study of how genetic differences among individuals cause varied responses to a drug) suggests that won't be effective, aspirin may be a better choice.

Maybe it's not the content, but rather the author, which is the cause of your headache. In that case, worry not; I was recently hired as a sports-writer at another company, so you'll no longer have to read my mindless dribble here. That is, unless you decide to read the competition or my vlog (a blog that contains video material) www.petecunningham.net.

It might surprise some of you that my editor, Michelle Rogers, would allow me to promote myself the way I did in the previous paragraph, especially considering that we are now officially competitors, but it shouldn't. For the past couple of months, she has afforded me countless opportunities with Heritage Newspapers, while I worked to move up in this struggling industry, and for

that I am forever obliged. While the editor-reporter relationship sometimes creates more *frenemies* (those who pretend to be friends but are actually enemies) than friends, that certainly was not true in this case.

So without further adieu, I bid you all farewell. Thanks for reading.

Pete Cunningham is a freelance writer. He can be reached through e-mail at petecmail@gmail.com.

OTHER VOICES



PETE CUNNINGHAM

Since my budget can barely afford a staycation (a vacation spent at home or nearby), this column will only offer words. You won't need to shell out any dough to add to your Scrabble arsenal.

menu. Even the staunchest of *locavores* (one who eats foods grown locally whenever possible) can't deny the tastiness of the Middle Eastern delicacy.

Eating too many of the often grease-filled sandwiches isn't exactly *cardioprotective* (serving to protect the heart), but the occasional splurge doesn't mean you'll need to see a doctor of *physiatry* (a medical specialty concerned with treating disabling disor-

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